and sold, and depots to be set up for the exchange of goods and for advancing loans on merchandise and property (by this means Wang hoped to insure to the cultivators a more certain market for their produce and increase the revenue of the government); (3) loans by the state at two per cent, a month to farmers in the planting season on the security of growing crops, a device for promoting agriculture by enabling the farmer to plant and harvest his crop without falling into the clutches of the private money lender with his usurious rates of interest, but which incurred much criticism from the fact that as they were administered by some officials such loans were often compulsory on all, the rich as well as the poor; (4) the division of the land into equal sections and the annual reappraisal of it for purposes of taxation, thus to avoid the exemption of some of the cultivated soil from taxation and to insure a more equitable distribution of the land tax; (S) the taxation of all a man's property, both real estate and movable; (6) the abolition of the conscription of labor by the state (a long-used form of taxation which probably bore very heavily on the poor and which, because it might be levied at times which most interfered with the peasant's agricultural operations, was almost certainly a handicap to farming) and the substitution for it of a graduated tax based upon the division of property-holders into five groups according to their wealth; (7) military reorganiza-tion, by which unnecessary troops were to be returned to civilian and productive life, and external defense and internal order were to be maintained by a system of compulsory military service, families being organized into groups of tens and

fifties and each family with more than one male providing one for the frontier forces and for the local police; (8) a method of supporting the cavalry needed in the wars against the northern invaders by requiring each family in certain areas to keep a horse, which, with its food, was to be supplied by the state; and (9) shifting the emphasis in the state examinations from literary style to the application of the principles of the Classics to current problems—a change designed to fit the successful competitors more directly for the fulfilment of official duties.

Few if any of these policies were entirely new. Whether Wang An-shih was aware of it or not, in part they were not unlike in principle the programs of the famous Legalists, Li K'uei and Wei